

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

50X1-HUM

TOPIC Military Information from Grimma

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

21 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO.)

REMARKS

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1. On 28 August 1953, the Strassburg Kaserne in Grimma was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and some with motor transport insignia. At about 7:45 p.m. on 12 August, 26 T-43 tanks, [] entered the installation, coming from the direction of the town. At about 7 p.m., sedan [] occupied by a general, was seen entering the installation. At about 2:30 p.m. on 18 August, armored scout cars [] each occupied by 15 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, were seen leaving the installation toward Wurzen. At about 3 p.m., about 700 to 800 troops were seen receiving meals in the installation. At about 7 p.m. on 19 August, 24 T-43 tanks, [] which had arrived from the direction of Dresden, were detained at the upper railroad station and left for the Strassburg Kaserne. Tank trucks [] were identified.¹

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2. On 28 August, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. At about 7:30 p.m. on 21 August, 24 heavy mortars, 24 trucks [] and about 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were detained at the upper railroad station and left for the Elsner Kaserne. The unit had arrived from the direction of Dresden. On 24 August, a woman lieutenant and 40 uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia alighted from a train, which had arrived from the direction of Dresden, they left for the Elsner Kaserne.²

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3. On 20 August, [] numerous troops, including many officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia, in the area of the Nagema installation. Sedan [] occupied by a colonel, stopped in front of the installation, coming from the direction of the Strassburg Kaserne.³

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4. On 23 August, Captain Zenushkin (fnu), was determined as supply officer of a regiment in Grimma.

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5. Between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on 12 August, T-43 tanks [redacted] truck [redacted] loaded with tank ammunition boxes, and radio truck [redacted] were seen entering the Strassburg Kaserne, coming from the direction of the town. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation.¹

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6. On 1 August, about 300 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer and motor transport insignia and led by a lieutenant colonel wearing black-bordered golden epaulets left the Elsner Kaserne for the officers' club and, later, returned to the installation. On 12 August, four trucks, [redacted] and carrying pontoons, were seen marching out for the training area near Schadel on the Mulde River. In the evening, the trucks returned empty. The following trucks, which included some carrying pontoons, were seen en route to and from the installation: [redacted]

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7. On 2 August [redacted] a troop camp of about 20 tents about 2 km east of the Otterwisch training grounds in the Fuchholz Forest. The camp was occupied by an estimated 300 to 400 troops wearing black-bordered golden epaulets, equipped with 1 field kitchen and 4 trucks. On 2 August, [redacted] 20 soldiers were cutting bushes outside the camp. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to and from the camp. On 5 August, [redacted] the Otterwisch troop training grounds was put off limits until 15 August because of firing practices. On the same day, [redacted] another troop camp of about 10 to 15 tents, which were occupied by about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 1 instruction tank, 7 trucks towing guns, 1 x 82-mm mortar, 5 trucks, [redacted] personnel carriers [redacted] 1 ambulance, 2 jeeps and 2 sedans were seen in the camp. On 5 August, about 122 troops were seen in a simulated attack. The exercise involved tanks, which were dug in up to the turrets, and an unplaced mortar.⁵

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1. Comment. [redacted] the 21st Gds Mecz Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div returned to its post from Koenigsrueck in mid-August. Except for the shipment on 5 August, which included 5 tanks and apparently equipment, no trains from Koenigsrueck to Grimma have been observed.
2. Comment. The information that heavy mortars were detrained is received with some reserve. The 265th Gds Mort Regt of the 8th Gds Mecz Div has, so far, been carried in the Flak Kaserne in Turzen.
3. Comment. The information tends to indicate that the Hq 8th Gds Mecz Div also returned to its post.
4. Comment. [redacted] the Elsner Kaserne, on 1 August, was occupied only by a rear detail. However, it appears more credible, that the 133d Gds Engr Bn of the 8th Gds Mecz Div returned to its installation in early August or in late July and participated in engineer exercises of the First Gds Mecz Army, which were held on the Mulde River between Grimma and Leisnig in mid-July. Schadel is located 4 km southeast of Grimma.
5. Comment. The Otterwisch troop training grounds is being utilized for small-scale exercises and firing practices by units of the 8th Gds Mecz Div from Leipzig and Grimma and MVD units from Leipzig. Motor vehicle [redacted] belongs to these MVD units. The other motor vehicle [redacted] are known from the area of the First Gds Mecz Army.

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